



16 Days of Activism – Day 16

Stand Up For Someone's Rights!

Today is the final day of the 16 Days of Activism – World Human Rights Day. Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day in 1948 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Two years later, the Assembly passed resolution 423 (V), inviting all States and interested organizations to observe 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day.



Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, without distinction as to race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. All human rights, whether they are civil and political rights, such as the right to life, equality before the law and freedom of expression; economic, social and cultural rights, such as the rights to work, social security and education; or collective rights, such as the rights to development and self-determination, are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. The improvement of one right facilitates advancement of the others.

Accordingly, universal human rights are expressed and guaranteed by law in the forms

of treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of governments to take positive action in certain ways or to refrain from particular acts in others, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights! Disrespect for basic human rights continues to be wide-spread in all parts of the globe and even in the United States. Extremist movements subject people to horrific violence. Messages of intolerance and hatred prey on our fears. Humane values are under unprecedented attack.

We must reaffirm our common humanity. Wherever we are, we can make a real difference -- in the street, in school, at work, in public transport, at church, at sporting events, in the voting booth, on social media.

The time for this is now. "We the people" can take a stand for rights. And together, we can take a stand for more humanity. No action is too small. They all add up to make a noticeable and positive impact. But it has to start with each of us. Step forward and defend the rights of a refugee or migrant, a person with disabilities, an LGBT person, a woman, a child, indigenous peoples, a minority group, or anyone else at risk of discrimination or violence.

SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!